REMARKS

Double Patenting

Claims 17-27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,476. Applicant hereby submits a terminal disclaimer to obviate the rejection.

Rejection Under 37 U.S.C. §103

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salesky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,313) in view of Kao (U.S. Patent No. 4,998,243).

In view of facilitating the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has canceled claim 17. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable, and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis 46,065 5 - 31 -05 Terril G. Lewis

Reg. No. 46,065

CUSTOMER NO. 29855

Wong, Cabello, Lutsch, Rutherford & Brucculeri, L.L.P.. 20333 State Hwy 249, Suite 600 Houston, TX 77070 Voice 832-446-2409 Fax 832-446-2424